

Remarks

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Applicant's claims 2,3,15, and 20, are written in means plus function language, and claims 21 to 33 are written in step plus function language, as allowed under 35 U.S.C. 112. 35 U.S.C. 112 requires these claims be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents. The rejection is limited to isolated parts of some of the recited functions, do not construe the claims as 35 U.S.C. 112 requires, lacks support, and should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C 112

Rejected claims 2, 3, 15 and 20 are written in means plus function language, and claims 21 to 33 are written in step plus function language, as allowed under 35 U.S.C. 112. 35 U.S.C. 112 requires these claims be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependant from non rejected Claim 1 and modify by functional language, the first and second means recited in claim 1. Claims 2 and 3, are read within and define dependent structure for the acceptable means plus function language of claim 1, reciting first and second means and the structure described in the specification and equivalents. There is no fact or reason for the grounds for rejection of claims 2 and 3 claims, given as a force created by use of a bowling ball or that the scope of the claims will change depending on how the bowling ball is delivered.

Claim 3 is amended to better define the invention in terms of the first and second means. Claims 1 and 17, 27 and 29, are amended to correct typographical errors.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-19, and 21-33, are rejected as anticipated by Calentine. Calentine is limited to a thumb piece which has frictional inserts 28, 30, cooperating with the surface of the bowling ball hole or with a frictional insert 72 in the bowling ball hole. In operation, the Calentine device operates by a sliding friction of opposed surfaces presented by the inserts 28, 30 and the hole insert 72, or the wall of the bowling ball hole.

Calentin does not disclose the means and functional elements of claim 1, recited as,

- a. first means for mounting an interlocking three dimensional surface on a finger pad;
- b. second means for mounting an interlocking three dimensional surface on the finger hole of a bowling ball;
- c. said first and second means for co-acting to produce a counter force opposed to movement of

said first means relative to said second means.

Calentin does not disclose the means and functional elements of claim 14, recited as,

- a. first means for interlocking a finger hole of a bowling ball with a bowler's finger;
- b. said first means including second means for mounting in a finger hole of a bowling ball and third means for mounting on the finger pad of a bowler's finger; and
- c. said first means for interlocking for holding said bowler's finger pad in alignment with said bowling ball.

Calentin does not disclose the step and functional elements of claim 21 recited as,

- a. arranging interlocking three dimensional surfaces on a finger pad cover and on a bowling ball insert, to develop a force counter to shifting of the relative position of said finger pad cover and said bowling ball insert or the contact area made between the finger pad cover and the finger hole insert;
- b. placing said interlocking three dimensional surface on a finger pad in mating relationship with said interlocking three dimensional surface on the interior surface of a bowling ball finger hole or finger hole insert.

The Office action has failed to explain the grounds of rejection by explaining what facts of Calentine anticipate the recited claim elements, or how the asserted elements meet the claim recitations, and denies applicant a reasonable opportunity of understanding the grounds of rejection and responding to the rejection. With respect to the rejection of claims 2 and 3 on the ground of inherent production of frictional and inertial forces produced by Calentine, in the operation of bowling, it is applicant's position that this reason for rejection by itself or combined with all other grounds in this action, fail to meet the recited claim elements or show anticipation..

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claim 5, dependent from an allowable claim 1, recites,

said first means includes means for covering the finger tip and for providing a substantially inelastic contact area between said finger tip and said finger hole.

Claim 17, dependent from an allowable claim 14, recites,

means for protecting the tip of said bowler's finger from the force of the bowling ball at its release and for transferring substantially all of the accelerating force for said bowler's finger tip to said bowling ball.

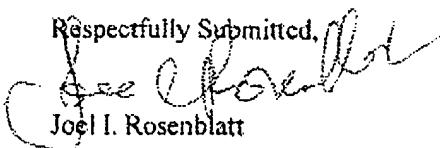
Claim 20, dependent from an allowable claim 14, recites,

said first means includes a means forming a plurality of grooves in said second means and means for forming a plurality of studs in said third means.

The grounds for rejection fails to show to teach how Pugh may be combined with Calentine. The reason given for rejection, that it would have been obvious, is a conclusion without any support in fact and does not explain how Pugh or Calentin, teaches or discloses any combination. A teaching for combining references is essential to establishing a supportable rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. This ground for rejection fails to show any teaching for combining references and should be withdrawn.

Applicant has demonstrated the reference applied by examiner cannot be used to reject the recited claimed invention. Applicant has reviewed all of the other references cited in the action and does not see any disclosure that could support rejection of the recited claimed invention. Applicant requests an allowance in the next action.

Respectfully Submitted,


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